



## RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 27, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Lindsay Thompson, Bill Valentine, Kimberly Kratovil, Greg Padgham, Joe Hinson, Scott Warner, Steve McHenry, Kelly Dudeck, Jamar Day, Alyssa Hastings, Don Mulrine, Debbie Bowden, Alice Settle-Raskin, Diana Lynne-Hsu, Matt Teffeau, Susanne MAEF, Josh Bollinger, Susan Harrison, Bill Christopher, Rachele Franceschi, Delegate Tom Hutchison, Kurt Fuchs, Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Amanda Clevenger.

Legislative Committee Co-chair Lindsay Thompson welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 2:03pm. Committee members introduced themselves via the chat feature.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided an update on HB695 - Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Revisions and Sunset Repeal (Rural Communities Improvement Act of 2023). Ms. Davis stated that the bill hearing was held on Friday, February 24, 2023 and the sponsor feels pretty adamant that it will get out of the Committee. Ms. Davis reported that there was also a hearing for HB596/SB511 – Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023. The hearing for the Senate was held on 2/22 and the House hearing is on 2/28. Ms. Davis is meeting with Senator Hettleman to discuss the bill. Mr. Steve McHenry stated that there appeared to be confusion with the \$1 million mandate relevant to the money RMC was receiving and he suggested that staff emphasize that the Council is getting a lot of money and not worry about the million dollars. Mr. McHenry stated that there is a new \$100,000 mandatory money cap in the House – no new spending above \$100,000.

The Committee discussed the following bills, and their recommendations are included below.

- a. SB613/HB908 – Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program. Senate Hearing 2/28, EEE. House Hearing held 2/2, EM. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- b. HB653 – Economic Development – Maryland Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program – Establishment, Hearing Held 2/23 W&M. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- c. SB867/HB652 – Vehicle Laws – Special and Commemorative Registration Plate – Maryland Heroes, Senate Hearing held 2/22 JP; House Hearing held 2/23 E&T. The Committee discussed this bill and HB1257/SB866 and decided to monitor this one and support the latter. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- d. SB746/HB23 – Manufactured Home – Sale of Manufactured Housing Communities (Manufactured Housing Modernization Act of 2023), Senate Hearing, 2/28, JP; House Hearing held 1/26 E&T. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- e. HB654/SB297 – Community Colleges – Capital Projects – State Share Adjustment, House Hearing held 2/28 APP; Senate Hearing held 2/8, B&T. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- f. SB172/HB229 – Employment for Minors – Opportunities for Work. Housing Hearing held 2/7 in Economic Matters; Third Reading Passed in the Finance Committee. **Committee Recommendation: Submit letter of support.**
- g. HB548/SB550 - Financial Regulation - Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund - Establishment (Access to Banking Act); House Hearing held 2/22 EM; Senate Hearing 3/1, Finance. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor pending additional information.**

- h. SB327/HB983-Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation-Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps, Senate Hearing held 2/15, EEE; House Hearing 3/3, E&T. The Committee learned that DNR is supportive, and several counties have submitted favorable with removing Sunday hunting. **Committee Recommendation: Support with amendment to remove Sunday hunting.**
- i. SB470/HB631- Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful Act), Senate Hearing 3/1, EEE, B&T; House Hearing held 2/22. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- j. SB492/HB932 – Oysters – Rotational Harvest – Pilot Program, Hearing 3/2, EEE; House Hearing 3/1, E&T. **Committee Recommendation: Support.**
- k. SB836/HB950 - Maryland Native Plants Program, Senate Hearing 3/2, EEE; House Hearing 3/3, E&T. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- l. SB508/HB1067 – Hemp Farming Program – Use of Hemp and Hemp Products in Consumable Products, Senate Hearing 3/2, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee; House Hearing 3/3, Economic Matters Committee. **Committee Recommendation: Remove from Tracker.**
- m. SB526/HB723 – Natural Resources – Forest Preservation and Retention. Senate Hearing 3/2 Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee; House Hearing held on 2/16, Economic Matters Committee. **Committee Recommendation: Support with Amendment**
- n. SB734/HB1038 – Transportation -Highways – Tourist Area and Corridor Signage Program, Senate Hearing 3/8, Finance; House Hearing 3/2, E&T  
**Committee Recommendation: Support with Amendment to include agritourism and exempt from law how often they need to be opened.**
- o. SB715 – State Board of Foresters – Sunset Extension, Hearing 3/3 EEE.  
**Committee Recommendation: Support.**
- p. SB636/HB1046 – Public Safety – Solar Battery Energy Storage Systems, Senate Hearing 3/7, EEE; House Hearing 3/8, E&T and Economic Matters Committee. (37:24) **Committee Recommendation: Support**
- q. SB643/HB838 – Housing – Community Development Program Act – Funding, Senate Hearing 3/8, B&T; House Hearing 3/14, Appropriations. Supported the creation of the CD program under DHCD and this would be the funding mechanism for the CD program. **Committee Recommendation: Support.**  
  
SB866/HB1257 – Special Vehicle Registration Plates – Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation – Appropriation, Senate Hearing 3/7, B&T; House Hearing TBD **Committee Recommendation: Support and sign onto separate letter provided by MAEF/CBT.**
- r. SJ1/HJ1 – Environmental Human Rights – SJ Hearing 3/8 EEE; HJ Hearing TBD. (41:14)  
**Committee Recommendation: Remove from Tracker**
- s. SB869 – Primary and Secondary Education – Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program – Eligibility, Hearing 3/7 B&T. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- t. SB720 – Maryland Horse Racing Act – Sunset Extension, Hearing 3/8 B&T. **Committee Recommendation: Support for the horse industry and racetracks.**
- u. SB694 – Department of Natural Resources’ Real Property – Exchange with Private Real Property, Hearing 3/9 B&T **Committee Recommendation: Remove from Tracker**
- v. SB590/HB718-Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023) Senate Hearing 2/28, EEE; House Hearing 3/9, EM. **Committee Recommendation: Oppose, RMC submit written and oral testimony.**

- w. SB931/HB1188 – Public Utilities – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Solar Photovoltaic Systems, Senate Hearing TBD, concern on the size (49:20) EEE; House Hearing 3/9, EM. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor – Revisit**
- x. SB562 – Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program – Establishment. Hearing 3/10, Finance Committee. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor - Revisit**
- y. HB678 – Sales & Use Tax – Electricity for Agriculture Purposes, Hearing held 2/23, W&M. (REVISIT) **Committee Recommendation: Support**
- z. HB712 - Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Farm Equipment, Hearing held 2/22 ECM. **Committee Recommendation: Remove from tracker.**
- aa. HB831 – Environment – Septic Systems – Online Database, Hearing 3/1 E&T. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- bb. HB1083 – Food System Resiliency Council – Invasive Species Coalition, Hearing 3/3, E&T. **Committee Recommendation: Write Letter of Information.**
- cc. HB1204 - Hemp Farming Program – Refined Hemp and Hemp Extract Products – Requirements, Hearing 3/3, ECM/HGO. **Committee Recommendation: Remove from tracker.**
- dd. HB1015 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers, Hearing 3/7 ECM. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- ee. HB1125 – Transit – Grant Funding for Local Service – Alterations, Hearing 3/7, APP. 1:00, **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- ff. HB1133 – Agriculture – Veterinary Practitioners – Student Loan Forgiveness Program, Hearing 3/7, APP. Practice for 2 years in high needs. **Committee Recommendation: Support**
- gg. HB1100 – Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund; Hearing 3/8, E&T, EM. **Committee Recommendation: Support**
- hh. HB1139 - Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use, Hearing 3/8, E&T. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor – get more information. Committee Co-chair Lindsay Thompson will to talk bill sponsor Delegate Boyce.**
- ii. HB842 – Agricultural Land – Foreign Property Interests – Restrictions, Hearing 3/9 E&T, EM. **Committee Recommendation: REMOVE**
- jj. HB889 – Retail Service Stations – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and Property Tax Credit for Service Station Conversions, Hearing 3/9, EM, W&M. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- kk. HB1213 – Wireless Facilities – Permitting and Siting, Hearing 3/9, ECM. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor – REVISIT – Ms. Charlotte Davis will find more information.**
- ll. HB1226 – Economic Development – Nonprofit Sustainability Fund, Establishment, Hearing 3/9 APP **Committee Recommendation: Monitor.**

Jamar Day, Child Care and ECE Policy Champion provided background and asked for the Committee to support SB495/HB868: Child Care Provider Stabilization Program – Established. This bill establishes the Child Care Provider Stabilization Program within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide “stability funding” to eligible child care providers in the State. The Committee stated they would support the bill.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided an update on the Maryland Day event that will be held on March 24, 2023. The Committee decided that the Executive Board and Legislative Committee should be invited to the event.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32pm.